

# Cannabis Policy and General Order

## Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

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## State Water Board



## Cannabis Policy and Requirements

### Regional Boards



Implement Water  
Quality

## Division of Water Rights



Implement Water<sup>2</sup>  
Rights

# Applicability:

- ◇ ALL commercial cannabis cultivators must apply for coverage
- ◇ Outdoor sites (> 2,000 sq ft) – Apply and enroll in General Order as tier 1 or 2
- ◇ Indoor sites – Apply and obtain waiver



Image Source: <https://www.civilized.life/>

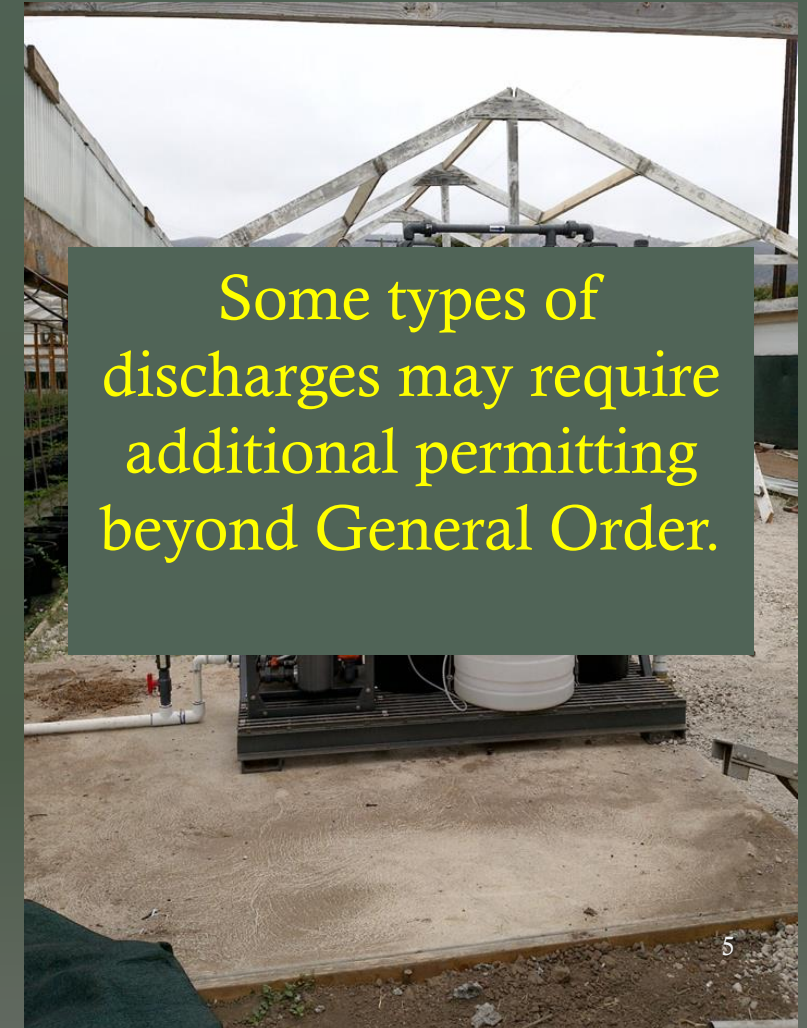
# Definition of Indoor Cultivation

- ◆ Indoor cultivation defined as:
  - ◆ Cultivation within a permanent structure AND
  - ◆ With a relatively impermeable floor
- ◆ Greenhouses with dirt floors are considered outdoor
- ◆ Indoor operations must enroll.



# Waste Disposal Options and Additional Coverage

- ◆ Waste disposal options for indoor sites
  - ◆ Community sewer system
  - ◆ On-site treatment (i.e. septic) ←
  - ◆ Store and haul
- ◆ Indoor and Outdoor Sites: The General Order does not cover ALL discharges on a site. Additional coverage may be needed. Examples include:
  - ◆ Reverse Osmosis residuals ←
  - ◆ Filter wash water ←
  - ◆ Onsite treatment systems (i.e. septic systems) ←



# Cannabis Policy and Attachment A Requirements – 12 BPTC Categories:

- ❖ riparian and wetland protection and management;
- ❖ water diversion, storage, and use;
- ❖ irrigation runoff;
- ❖ land development and maintenance, erosion control, and drainage features;
- ❖ soil disposal;
- ❖ stream crossing installation and maintenance;
- ❖ fertilizer and soil use and storage;
- ❖ pesticide and herbicide application and storage;
- ❖ petroleum products and other chemical use and storage;
- ❖ cultivation-related waste disposal;
- ❖ refuse and human waste disposal; and
- ❖ winterization.

# Brief Overview of Requirements

- ◇ The following slides are in no way comprehensive
- ◇ Many of these are not required by the Irrigated Land Regulatory Program



# Setbacks

Common Name	Watercourse Class <sup>3</sup>	Distance
Perennial watercourses, waterbodies (e.g. lakes, ponds), or springs <sup>4</sup>	I	150 ft.
Intermittent watercourses or wetlands	II	100 ft.
Ephemeral watercourses	III	50 ft.
Man-made irrigation canals, water supply reservoirs, or hydroelectric canals that support native aquatic species	IV	Established Riparian Vegetation Zone
All other man-made irrigation canals, water supply reservoirs, or hydroelectric canals	IV	N/A

# Land Development and Erosion Control

- ◆ Land development and road construction must be designed by qualified professional
- ◆ Incorporate erosion control and sediment detention devices
- ◆ No grading activities on slopes  $> 50\%$



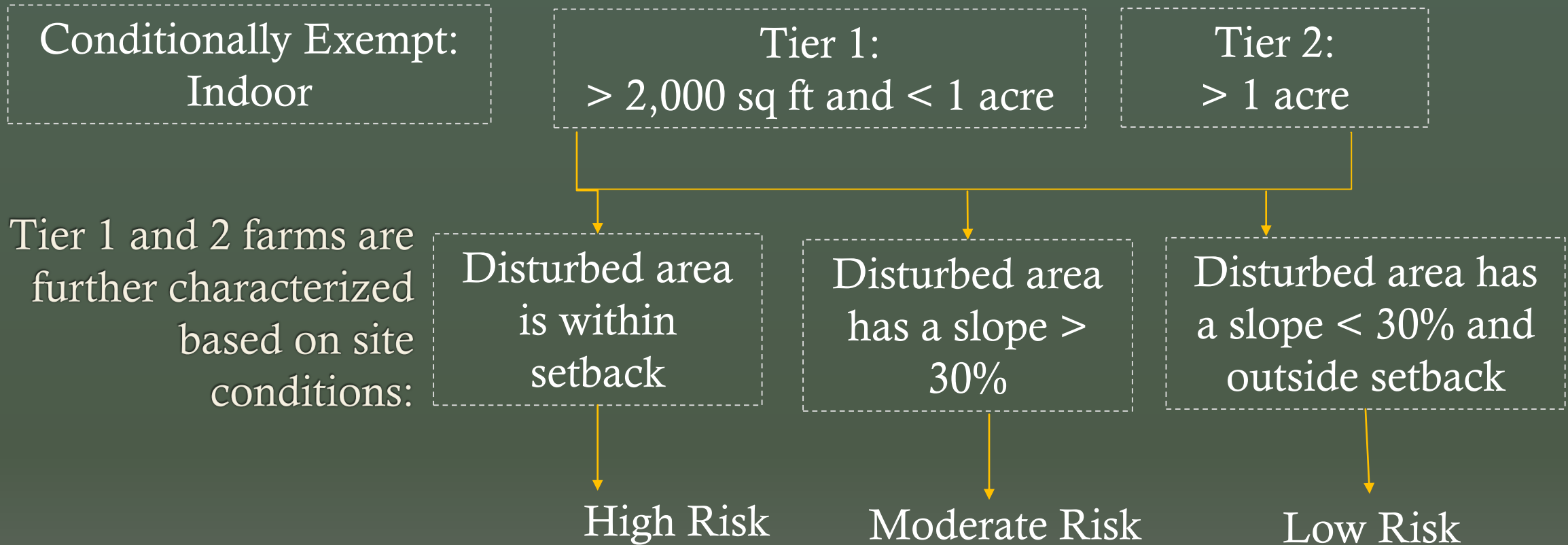
# Winterization

- ❖ No operation of heavy equipment in winter period
- ❖ Maintain culverts, drop inlets, trash racks, etc,
- ❖ Cover and berm stockpiled materials



# Tiering Structure and Risk Determination

Tier is based on amount of disturbed area:



**Higher tier/risk = more requirements**

# Technical Reports (Submitted Once)

Technical Reporting Requirement	Indoor	Tier 1			Tier 2		
	Na	Low	Medium	High	Low	Medium	High
Site Management Plan		X	X	X	X	X	X
Site Erosion and Sediment Control Plan			X			X	
Disturbed Area Stabilization Plan				X			X
Nitrogen Management Plan					X	X	X
Site Closure Report	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

# Cannabis Water Rights

- ◆ Water Rights for conventional agriculture or domestic use do not apply to cannabis.



# Contact Information

- ◆ Regional Water Board:

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- ◆ State Water Board:

- ◆ Water Rights: Roberto Cervantes, [roberto.cervantes@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:roberto.cervantes@waterboards.ca.gov), 916-322-6795

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